

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:313

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007

IMPORT OF BAD QUALITY APPLES FROM AMERICA

Chaudhary Shri Pankaj;Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar;Rijiju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that apples imported from the United States of America are suspected to be affected with worms alien to our country, as yet;
- (b) if so, whether the British Commonwealth Agriculture Bureau International (CABI) has been examining these worms found in the American apples;
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government has examined the apples imported from America;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the Indian apple growers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)to(e): There are no reports of interception of quarantine pests from imported apple consignments from USA or any non-compliance of Indian Plant Quarantine Regulations by such imports. Government of India permits import of apple that meet the phytosanitary specifications prescribed by the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003. Phytosanitary specifications are prescribed based on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) done by taking into account the published information including that of Commonwealth Agriculture Bureau International about the pest and disease status on a crop in the exporting country and their likely association with the path way of import of the commodity. The PRA is continuous process which is product specific and country-specific.

Indian Plant Quarantine system has established quarantine centres at the ports of entry (air and sea). Most of the Plant Quarantine Stations, especially, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, through which major proportion of imported commodities enter the country, have established laboratory facilities for diagnosis of quarantine pests and diseases as per the established procedure of inspection and approval for release of imported agri-commodities. The imported consignments of apple are inspected on arrival to ensure freedom from pests and diseases of quarantine significance to India. This ensures prevention of entry of quarantine pests and diseases into the country.